

REMARKS

No amendments have been made to the pre-existing claims. Applicants have added new dependent claims 128-145, supported by the specification. Claims 128-136 each depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 52, while dependent claims 137-145 each depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 121.

No new matter has been added. Claims 52, 116-121, and 123-145 are now pending for examination.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 52, 116-121, and 123-127 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Koch DE 4004220 C1 ("Koch").

Koch teaches the use of molten tin (Sn) as a secondary fuel. See, e.g., page 5, paragraph 1. However, it is not seen where Koch discloses or suggests a chemically rechargeable anode, i.e., an anode that is capable of being recharged by the addition of a chemical reductant. In Koch, the anode (described as a "current charge eliminator") is formed from platinum, as is discussed in paragraph 2 on page 5. The platinum electrode is separated from a liquid or "molten" mass by a small tube 4 that is made of Al_2O_3 (see Fig. 3), where the "molten mass" is the electrolyte and the secondary fuel (see also paragraph 1 on page 5). Platinum is not described in Koch as being capable of being recharged by the addition of a chemical reductant. Thus, Koch does not disclose or suggest a chemically rechargeable anode, as is recited in independent claims 52 and 121. In addition, as Koch states that a molten mass is used as the electrolyte, nowhere does Koch disclose or suggest that a solid state electrolyte in ionic communication with the anode can be used, as is recited in claim 129 and 138.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims be withdrawn. The remaining claims each depend from independent claims 52 or 121, and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is also respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge our Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Order No. T0457.70019US00 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: December 10, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Timothy J. Oyer, Ph.D.

Registration No.: 36,628

Tani Chen, Sc.D.

Registration No.: 52,728

WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.

Federal Reserve Plaza

600 Atlantic Avenue

Boston, Massachusetts 02210-2206

(617) 646-8000